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APPLICATION OF

WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY AND SHENANDOAH GAS DIVISION OF WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY

CASE NO. PUE-2002-00364

For a general increase in natural gas rates and charges and approval of performance-based rate regulation methodology pursuant to Va. Code § 56-235.6

HEARING EXAMINER'S RULING

March 3, 2003

On February 28, 2003, the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington ("AOBA"), by counsel, sent by facsimile a motion requesting that the Commission accept its late-filed post-hearing brief. That motion was filed with the Clerk of the Commission on March 3, 2003. In support of its request, the AOBA represents that all parties received copies of its post-hearing brief by the close of business on February 28, 2003, the due date, either by hand-delivery or by e-mail, but it was not filed with the Clerk until March 3, 2003. Counsel further states that Washington Gas Light Company and the Staff have no objection to this motion.

Upon consideration, I find the Motion to Accept Late-Filed Post-Hearing Brief filed by the AOBA should be, and is hereby, *granted*. Since briefs were due to be filed on February 28, 2003, and counsel represents that all parties were served a copy either by hand-delivery or e-mail, by the close of business on February 28, 2003, no party will be harmed by granting the motion. Accordingly,

IT IS DIRECTED that the post-hearing brief filed by the AOBA shall be accepted for filing in the captioned proceeding.

Deborah V. Ellenberg Chief Hearing Examiner